A PRETTY

RIDDLE BOOK,

BEING A

CHOICE WHETSTONE

FOR THE

WIT of YOUNG CHILDREN,

By Mr. CHRISTOPHER CONUNDRUM, Riddle Maker in Ordinary to the King and Queen of the Fairies.

Adorned with CUTS.

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A PRETTY

RIDDLE BOOK,

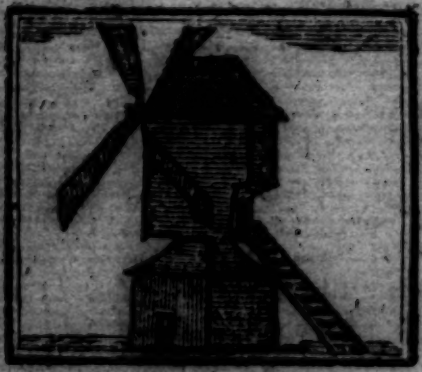
BEING A

CHOICE, &c.

RIDDLE I.

FOUR wings I poſſeſs, with which I mount high,
My pinions are ſturdy, yet never do fly;
In motion's my body, I ſometimes move round,
But ſtill on the ſame ſpot I always am found;
Like a nurſe who the meat for an infant doth chew,
I'm employ'd in preparing proviſions for you.

WINDMILL.



RIDDLE II.

I Am but ſmall and yet 'tis true,
Great things in proper hands I do;
The learned my aſſiſtance ask,
To help them is my daily task.
When I am clean I ſervice lack,
But when the moſt in uſe I'm black;
Teachers moſt grave in every town,
Have always held me in renown.
But when I'm us'd by men of ſkill,
'Tis known I make folks laugh at will;
Yet ev'ry day you plainly ſee,
A filly thing gives birth to me.

A PEN,

RIDDLE III.

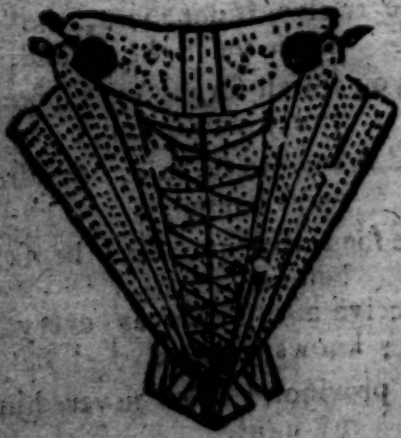
HERE you behold the ſweeteſt thing
That nature boaſts in pride of ſpring.
Have you beheld when May morns riſe,
What beauteous colours deck the skies?
Know you what paints the healthy cheek,
What ſtill the bee loves beſts to ſeek?
All theſe you'll find in me unite,
For I was form'd to give delight;
Yet when in all my beauty dreſt,
There lurks a thorn beneath my breaſt.

ROSE.

RIDDLE IV.

MY legs, I can venture to ſay within bound
Are twelve, if not more, tho' they ne'er touch the ground,
If you ſearch for my eyes more than thirty you'll find,
And ſtrange to be told, they're always behind:
The food that my kind benfactreſs beſtows,
I receive at my eyes as every one knows
The proviſion I take never hinders my ſight,
I receive it at morn and diſcharge it at night.

PAIR of STAYS.



RIDDLE V.

THO' I alas a priſoner be,
My trade is priſoners to ſet free,
And when I have them by the pole,
I drag them upwards from their hole.
Tho' ſome are of ſo ſtubborn kind,
I'm forc'd to leave a limb behind;
Like poliſh'd ſteel I oft appear,
The drooping ſoul I help to cheer,
Tho' in myſelf nor drink nor food,
Yet of great ſervice when improv'd.

A CORK-SCREW.

RIDDLE VI.

THO' ſmall my ſize,
I've body, legs, and head:
In ſummer living,
But in winter dead;
My dreſs is green,
And when I firſt appear,
It does foretel,
That ſummer draweth near,
Void of all care,
Of buſineſs, or of ſtrife,
I lead an humble,
Harmleſs, country life.

GRASS-HOPPER.

RIDDLE VII.

MY tongue is long,
My voice is ſtrong,
And yet I breed no ſtrife,
You may me hear,
Both far and near,
And yet I have no life.

A BELL.

RIDDLE. VIII.

I Was, I ſay as cold as clay,
No life nor breath in me was found,
Nay further ſtill it was their will,
A brazen wall ſhould me ſurround;
They hung me in a certain place,
But yet it did not prove my bane,
For once within an hours ſpace
Stir'd and mourn'd and breath'd again.

A POT.

A Pot of cold water, with which it remaineth ſo did neither ſtir nor move but being put into a Chimney over a good Fire it ſoon boiled, and the Steam betokens the breath.

RIDDLE IX.

IN me behold the height of human art.
Hear what to me the elements impart
My origin I owe to mother *Earth*,
Fire was the midwife forwarded my birth.
Air gave me wings and added to my voice,
And *Neptune* made me his peculiar choice;
To me committed his dominions vaſt
Jove wav'd his ſceptre and the fiat paſs'd:
I took poſſeſſion without more delay,
And hold the liquid empire to this day.

SHIP.

RIDDLE X.

AT once I am in France and Spain
And likewiſe many nations more,
While I am in my gloomy reign,
I give the world a mighty ſtore.

The SUN.

RIDDLE XI.

I'M captain of a party ſmall,
Whoſe number is but five
But yet do great exploits for all
And ev'ry man alive.

2.

With Adam I was ſeen to live
Ere he knew what was evil;
But no connection have with Eve
The ſerpent or the devil.

3.

I on our Saviour's Laws attend
And fly deceit and vice
Patriot and Proteſtant befriend
But infidels deſpiſe.

4

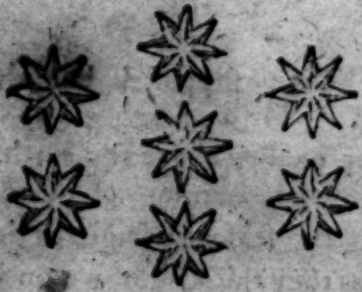
Matthew and Mark both me have got
But to prevent vexation;
St. Luke and John poſſeſs me not
Tho' found in every nation.

Letter A.

FABLE XII.

WE are ſuppoſed of kindred birth
But far exalted above the earth ;
We are what men may chuſe to feign
Ruling the ſeaſons bringing rain ;
This as they think, but we on high
Roll on regardleſs through the sky.
Thus without wings we reach the heav'n.
Alike in form, in number ſeven.

SEVEN STARS.



RIDDLE XIII.

FROM whence I came 'tis hard to tell;
But this I'm ſure is known full well
That naughty boys for me do cry
For me the dunce to ſchool doth hie
That with the poor I always ſtay
And am what miſers give away.

NOTHING.

RIDDLE XIV.

WITH a badge on my back,
Of red orange and black,
I travel the nation all over,
And however abus'd,
Without violence us'd,
Will never my buſineſs diſcover.

I'm of ſervice to ſtate,
To the poor and the great,
To the tradeſman, merchant, & beau,
Some of whom I attend,
Ev'ry day as a friend,
And to others bring ſorrow and woe

All kindly receive me,
And you may believe me,
Scarce ever refuſe me my pay,
Take it well or amiſs,
For whoever does this,
With him not a moment I ſtay.

A LETTER,

To
Sir Samuel
Slybcoin.

RIDDLE XV.

TWO Dozen old Fellows, ſome ſhorter than others
Two thouſand years liv'd, and all of them brothers;
Notwithſtanding their age, they're as upright as ever,
Much Buſineſs they do and are active and clever:
Great travellers they are, yet ſtrange to ſay how,
For pris'ners they've been from their birth until now;
They are moſtly in black when ſeen in the ſtreets,
And never together lie but in very clean ſheets;
Admired they are by great and by ſmall,
Yet an I, and one only can be found with them all.

The ALPHABET.

A B C D E F G H

I K L M N O P Q

R S T U W X Y Z

RIDDLE XVI.

IN England 'tis certain I ever ſhall be,
Yet in no part of London you'll ever ſee me.
In Houſes and churches, I always am ſeen,
Yet in no kind of building have I ever been.

Letter E.

RIDDLE XVII.

A ſuit was brought and was be-
ſtow'd,
Upon a perſon graciouſly :
It was acording to her degree :
There likewiſe happened to be his
Lot,
A coſtly houſe well built and neat :
Though he who had it knew it not,
Outſide and in were both complete.
Expound this riddle out of hand;
The owner hath no houſe nor land.

A COFFIN.

The ſuits of crape beſtowed upon a deceaſed Body; the houſe is the coffin, the land is the grave, and he knoweth not that he poſſeſſes either.

RIDDLE XVIII.

TO rich and poor we useful are,
And yet for our reward;
By both at last we're thrown away,
Without the least regard.

A Pair of GLOVES.

RIDDLE XIX.

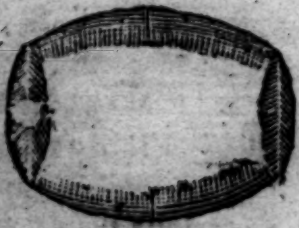
AT two days old good Latin I
ſpeak,
Tho for it I ne'er went to ſchool:
Arms I have four, which come out
of my back,
And in yellow I'm dreſs'd like
fool.
All men do me ſeek, tho' few can
me get,
When caught I'm confin'd like
in a net.

A GUINEA.

RIDDLE XX.

MY living is within a wood,
Am at any one's command;
I often do more hurt than good,
If once I get the upper hand,
never fear a companion's frown,
Stout things I oftentimes have done;
Brave soldiers I can fell them down.
Never fear their sword nor gun.

A BARREL.



It is Strong beer, the barrel is the wood, but when it gets into Mens heads it often fells them down.

RIDDLE XXI.

I AM in all countries, but not in the ſea ;
I am in all Timber ; but not in a Tree.
I am in all metals : but yet I've been told,
Am not found in iron, Lead, Silver, or Gold.
I am not in England, yet this I can ſay,
In Weſtminſter I'm to be found ev'ry day,
I am not in Thought : but ever in Mind,
And you may if you pleaſe ev'ry moment me find.

Letter M.

RIDDLE XXII.

WHEN first my maker
Form'd me to his mind,
He gave me eyes:
But left me dark and blind;
He form'd a nose;
But left me without smell;
A mouth: but neither voice,
Nor tongue to tell,
The world my use:
Yet oft the fair thro' me,
Altho' I hide the face,
Do plainly see.

A MASK.

RIDDLE XXIII.

WHO knows not me has never learnt to read,
I nothing want yet always ſtand in need.
In ſomething and in nothing I am found,
In ev'ry Province am, and nation round.
And ſtill to own the truth without diſguiſe,
I have been all this time before your eyes.

Letter N.

RIDDLE XXIV.

GREAT frauds and villanies have been try'd!
And many millions for my ſake have dy'd;
The ſplended Grandeur which my race adorns,
Is like the roſe around beſet with thorns:
So 'twixt the plague of keeping me and loſing.
By ſome I'm thought not worth a wiſe man's chuſing.

CROWN.

RIDDLE XXV.

TWO brothers we are
Great burthens we bear,
By which we are bitterly preſs'd,
In truth we may ſay,
We are full all the day,
And empty when we go to reſt.
To ſome we are moſt filthily ſeen,
To others oft moſt ſweet and clean.
Altho' in other diſtant lands,
We are not in ſuch high command,
Yet we are courtly us'd in this,
And by the beſt nor meaneſt thought amiſs.

SHOES.

RIDDLE XXVII.

'THE firſt and chiefeſt
In Riches I'm ſeen,
Altho' in poverty
Always have been.
And tho' I'm in rags
I'm ſet on a throne,
For every one knows
I've a right in a crown.

Letter R.

CONUNDRUMS.

WHY is a drunken Man like Wales?
Becauſe he is rocky.

Why is a dancing maſter like a Tree?
Becauſe he is full of bows.

Why is a tavern like a Table?
Becauſe it has Drawers in it.

Why is a man with a bad Memory like a covetous Man?
Becauſe he is for-getting.

Why is Claret like an Oath?
Becauſe it binds.

Why is a Key like an hoſpital?
Becauſe it has wards in it.

Why is a condemned Malefactor like the Root of the Tongue?
Becauſe he is down in the Mouth.

Why is a looking-Glaſs like a Philoſopher?
Becauſe it reflects.

Why is a Difficulty overcome like a knight on horſeback?
Becauſe it is Sur-mounted.

Why is a drunken Man like one ſwimming?
Becauſe he's in liquor.

Why is condemned Malefactor like a cannon?
Becauſe he is caſt.

Why is a Brewers horſe like a Tapſter?
Becauſe he draws drink.

Why is a clear ſtream like a fine Lady?
Becauſe it reflects.

Why is a hackney horſe like Scarlet?
Becauſe it is hi-red.

Why is a man that runs in debt like a watch ?

Becauſe he goes a Tick.

Why is a neat prim lady like a book?

Becauſe ſhe's in print.

Why is a red hair'd Lady like a band of Soldiers ?

Becauſe ſhe bears firelocks.

Why is a man in a ſhip like a Kitchen dreſſer ?

Becauſe he is aboard.

Why is a thing bought like an old mended Shoe ?

Becauſe it is ſold.

Why is rotten cheeſe like a ſtrong man ?

Becauſe it is miety.

Why is the ſeeing of a Sign a manifeſt token of Sight ?

Becauſe it is a Sign you ſee.

Why ſhould a Taylor have all manner of Filth and Naſtineſs thrown on him?

Becauſe he is a common ſewer.

Why is an unbound book like a Lady in bed?

Becauſe it is in ſheets.

Why is a poor man like a Semptreſs?

Becauſe he makes Shifts.

Why is a drawn Tooth like a thing forgot?

Becauſe it is out of the head.

Why are moſt pieces of villainy like a Match?

Becauſe they are brought to light.

Why is a pretty lady like an Oat-cake?

Becauſe ſhe is toaſted.

Why do ladies wear clogs?

To ſave their ſouls.

STORY of the BRAZEN HEAD.

THF Brazen Head was made by the famous Friar Bacon, a very wonderful and learned man. But, though this brazen head had a brazen face to it, it never like many other brazen faces, was guilty of telling lies which is certainly a very great recommendation to it. Famous it has

been for theſe words! Time is, Time was, Time's paſt.

The time is when every child ought to grow better, or elſe they may by and by with ſorrow ſay, the time was when I might have pleaſed all my Friends by being good: but alas! I've fooliſhly neglected that time, the opportunity hath ſlipped away, and now are Times paſt.

Every body is welcome to make free with this head and to ask him what queſtions they think proper; he'll anſwer them I'll warrant him.

Maſter Careleſs advanced and aſked the head what was the beſt game to play at? To the great aſtoniſhiment of them all, the head immediately opened its mouth and replied,

Make your book your diverſion for thats the beſt game:
You'll find it will bring you both profit and Fame.

Miſs Homely then begged the head o tell her what would make her handſome, for ſhe had a ſtrange deſire to be admired by every body. The head replied :

If you'd beautiful appear,
Always be good natured, dear :
Let ſmiles adorn your cheeks and Eyes.
Be mild and modeſt in replies.
No other charms you'll then require,
For all will love you and admire,

Miſs Homely promiſed to take the advice, and then maſter Smart aſked the head to tell him how he might make every body love him too.

The head replied in two words,

Be good.

FINI